

Remarks

The applicants are filing this continuation application to gain allowance of claims that are focused on the operational aspects of the present invention. The continuation is co-pending as of the filing date of this continuation application. The present invention includes a timing module and a water flow sensor that in cooperation with each other, detect certain leaks in the reservoir of a toilet. The Office has cited references during the prosecution of the parent case. These references include U.S. Patent Number 3, 365,710 to Duplessy and U.S. Patent Number 4,011,553 to Delgado Barri.

The applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended, are not described, suggested or taught in either of these references. Furthermore, the applicants respectfully submit that given the afore-mentioned references, the present invention would not have been obvious.

More specifically, the present invention includes a timing module that is not described in the cited references. On page 4 of the April 28, 2003 Official Communication, the Office alleges that Duplessy discloses a timing module at Col. 4, lines 30-32. However, applicants respectfully submit that this reference does not in any manner resemble the timer module of the present invention. Duplessy simply describes a "time delay relay" that provides operation of the alarm after the normal cycle of a working water closet. Presumably this is so that the alarm can be heard. Such a mechanism used to delay the sounding of an alarm is not the same as the timer module of the present invention that can determine, calculate or receive a standard fill time value, use that value to calculate threshold values, and then sound an alarm if water flow is detected that is outside of the standard fill time by the threshold amounts. In addition, there is no basis whatsoever suggesting that the "time delay relay" in Duplessy could obviously be applied to

arrive at the present invention. Indeed, the Duplessy reference is no more applicable than a standard egg timer.

Thus, the applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are in condition for allowance and requests the Office to enter these claims into the RCE application and take such actions as necessary to further this case towards issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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